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**CLEVELAND
CITY HOSPITAL**

A Digest of Information

**Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program
of the Work Projects Administration
in the State of Ohio**

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NOTE

This book presents a condensation of research material gathered for a forthcoming large history of the City Hospital of Cleveland, Ohio, and guide to its facilities, buildings, and grounds. It is intended to give a few essential facts that will help acquaint the people of Cleveland with the facilities of their municipal hospital. Research for the manuscript was compiled by Gertrude Farley and the illustrations were done by Steve First under the supervision of Alice J. Miskell.

Harry Graff, State Supervisor,
The Ohio Writers' Project.

Edward C. Blythin
Mayor of Cleveland

Fred W. Ramsey
Director of Public Health and Welfare

George P. Bugbee
Commissioner of City Hospital

Hospital Management Committee

Commissioner George P. Bugbee, chairman
Frank L. Bosquet, Assistant Superintendent
C.T. Dolezel, M.D., Assistant Superintendent,
Medical
Edward P. Driscoll, Assistant Superintendent
Leon N. Hickernell, Assistant Superintendent
Thomas Hunston, Chief Accountant
George Ihlenfield, Chief Engineer
Mrs. Estelle C. Koch, Superintendent of Nurses

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Commissioner George P. Bugbee
Mr. Sam Emerson
Mr. John T. Feighan
Mrs. Ben P. Gale
Mrs. William K. Gunn
Mr. Alexander Martin
Director Fred W. Ramsey

CLEVELAND CITY HOSPITAL



GENERAL INFORMATION

Administration and Function

The Cleveland City Hospital, administered by the Department of Public Health and Welfare of the city of Cleveland, is concerned with the care of the sick and injured; the education of physicians, nurses, technicians, and hospital personnel; the prevention of disease; the promotion of public health; and the advancement of scientific research.

Address and Telephone Number

3395 Scranton Road Florida 4820

How to Reach City Hospital

By Street Car: Take West 25 Street car at southwest corner of Public Square to Trowbridge Avenue; walk east one block to hospital grounds. Administration Building faces Trowbridge Avenue.

By Bus: Take Scranton Road bus at Prospect and Ontario Avenues (one block south of Public Square); leave bus at Trowbridge Avenue opposite Administration Building.

By Automobile: From Public Square, west on Superior Avenue (Ohio State route 2) over High Level Bridge, south on West 25 Street (Ohio State

route 3) to Trowbridge Avenue,
east on Trowbridge Avenue,
one block to Scranton Road and
hospital entrance. Parking area
in rear of Administration Building.

Rules of Admittance

In order to be admitted to City Hospital,
the patient must be financially unable to provide
for his hospital care and a resident of Cleveland
referred by:

1. Out-Patient Department Physician
2. City Physician
3. Private Physician

***Note:** Contagious cases excepted; City Hospital is
the only hospital in the city of Cleveland handling
contagion and certain highly infectious diseases.

Visiting Regulations

Afternoon: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and
Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Evening: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Contagious: No visiting permitted.

Psychiatric: Sunday and Wednesday at 1 p.m.
(No children under 16 years of
age admitted.)

Lowman Pavilion: Afternoon and evening hours
same as for general hospital.
(No children under 16 years of
age admitted.)

Hospital Operating Summary for 1940

Appropriation for 1940	\$1,756,433.40
Total Hospital Personnel	1,200
Patient Days	445,317
Patients Treated	15,238
Average Daily Census	1,217
Clinic Visits	162,626
Average Daily Clinic Visits	577
Total Meals Served	2,294,724
Average Daily Meals Served	6,286
Total Laundry Pounding	4,344,817
Average Daily Laundry	6 Tons

HISTORY

The Cleveland City Hospital, housed in 17 brick buildings on a 27 1/2-acre site, is America's sixth largest general hospital. It extends for two city blocks (950 feet) along Scranton Road; the other boundaries are as follows: north, Valentine Street (1,200 feet); south, Aiken Avenue (1,750 feet); east, Jennings Road (900 feet). In height the buildings range from the one-story pharmacy to the ten-story general and neuro-psychiatric hospitals. A maze of underground tunnels, approximately a mile in total length, connects all these buildings. The size of the institution is further emphasized in figures from the 1940 operating summary that show the total personnel numbered 1,200; the patients treated totaled 15,238; the clinic visits reached 162,626; and the daily amount of laundry weighed six tons.

This \$8,000,000 hospital had its beginnings in a small two-story wooden building, formerly the township poorhouse, situated on part of the site of the Erie Street Cemetery. In 1837, the year following the incorporation of Cleveland as a city, the village authorities turned over the poorhouse to the new city officials, together with responsibility for care of the sick, infirm, and mentally unfit then in occupancy.

During the decade 1830-40, when the population of Cleveland increased from 1,076 to 6,071, there were epidemics of Asiatic cholera and malaria. In 1837, twenty-five inmates of various ages and conditions of health were placed under the care of a superintendent, a physician, and a warden.

A second epidemic of cholera broke out in 1849, and city officials acted to provide larger and more suitable hospital accommodations. In

due course, the epidemic was brought under control, and no further action was taken to secure adequate land and buildings until 1851, when 80 acres of land on Scranton Road were purchased by the city and an architect was engaged to plan the first building. In this same year, the original structure was torn down; the inmates were transferred to a building on Croton Street, near East 37 Street.

In 1855, upon completion of the new building (later known as "Middle House" because of its two wings), 40 patients were transferred from Croton Street. These were the first of thousands of sick and unfortunate people who have since been treated in the City Hospital of Cleveland.

During the Civil War period, several privately owned hospitals were established in the city. As is traditional in war time, medical progress was accelerated to a marked degree, but confined for the most part to doctors and surgeons attached to the army and in private practice. The only war activity of the Infirmary, as it was then called, was provided by an encampment of Union soldiers on the grounds.

By 1876 the Infirmary was crowded even to the sheds, which were called relief buildings. The overflow of mental cases was held in the jails, for no accommodations provided by the State were available. With the passage of the Dow liquor-tax law in 1886, and the appropriation of 20 per cent of the returns from this tax for Infirmary purposes, plans were laid to construct another permanent building. A fund of \$75,000 that had accumulated from the Dow tax returns was used for the erection of a five-story brick building, including basement and attic, that was opened in 1889. The famous old "Middle House," facing on Valentine Avenue, was torn down many years ago,

but the second building still stands. It is now occupied by the Out-Patient Department, and serves also as headquarters for the WPA and NYA projects assigned to the hospital.

In 1890 there were approximately 480 inmates in the Infirmary building. They were under the care of a politically appointed part-time physician. The lack of proper medical care came to the attention of local physicians in private practice, and through appeals in the newspapers interest was aroused to provide a regular medical staff. In July 1891, twenty-eight doctors and surgeons were appointed, and a term of 18 months was set for internes. At this time, two schools of medicine were represented--one homeopathic, the other regular.

The reputation of the almshouse still clung to the institution, although the appointment of a full medical staff called attention to its hospital function. The increased local scientific investigation from 1894 onward was the result, to some extent, of an influx of young physicians trained in European clinics. Among these the most prominent at the time were Drs. Carl A. Hamann, Charles F. Hoover, and John Pascal Sawyer, all versed in the laboratory technique of the day and enthusiastic students of the natural history of disease. Methods of autopsy were definitely improved; and pathological research was begun at City Hospital. A laboratory was set up, equipped with a microscope brought from Vienna by Dr. Hoover, and put in the charge of a promising young physician, Dr. William Travis Howard, who later became the head of the Pathological Division of Western Reserve University. Still active at City Hospital are Drs. Samuel J. Webster, O.T. Thomas, and Joseph C. Placak, who participated in the work of the nineties.

In 1896 a Nurses' Training School was inaugurated under the supervision of Miss Caroline Kirkpatrick. It was to become a model in instruction methods and curriculum to be followed by other hospitals. The graduates of the first class of 1898 numbered eight; in recent years the list has reached forty-four.

Upon his election as mayor of Cleveland in 1901, Tom L. Johnson appointed Reverend Harris Reid Cooley as a member of his cabinet in charge of the police, fire, and welfare departments. It was during the Johnson-Cooley regime that City Hospital became the first municipal hospital in the United States to segregate tuberculous patients; that a temporary pesthouse was established and operated during the years 1901-2, while smallpox was rampant in Cleveland; that a building program was proposed; that the pesthouse was removed to Warrensville, and the building converted into a tuberculosis sanitarium; and that, in 1908, the sanitarium was also removed to Warrensville. It was the period in which the Cleveland City Hospital began to lose the anathema of a poorhouse, workhouse, and home for the infirm.

During the administration of Newton D. Baker as mayor, Reverend Cooley continued as welfare director, and in 1909 the Infirmary was finally transferred from City Hospital to a separate new building at Cooley Farms in Warrensville. The next step at the hospital was the establishment of an observation ward for mental cases. Among other major improvements was the establishment of better living quarters for nurses.

A consolidation of medical schools occurred in 1913. The same year, an affiliation between City Hospital and Western Reserve University was instigated and carried through by Mayor Baker.

Under the terms of the contract, the medical school of the university was given authority to appoint the medical staff for the hospital, and in return the wards were opened for the instruction of the medical students. In this way, the management of the hospital was made nonpolitical, and the responsibility for the treatment of patients was laid in the hands of physicians sponsored by the university. An encouraging atmosphere in every phase of the hospital work was immediately noticeable. The efficiency and record of hospital progress since 1913 has resulted largely from the consolidation of interests embodied in the close relationship with the university medical school.

The hospital building program that had been proposed in 1910 came into being slowly. It was not until 1919, during the administration of Dudley S. Blossom as welfare director, that moves were made to appropriate funds for the construction of several new buildings. Blossom turned the first shovel of earth for the erection of the General Building, which was begun and finished in 1921. The next year, Contagious and Neuro-Psychiatric Hospitals were opened, and in 1924 the Out-Patient Department was established. Another valuable department of the City Hospital was also inaugurated in this year--the Medical Social Service. The John H. Lowman Chest Clinic was launched in 1925, and two years later the new Pathological Laboratory was completed. In 1930 City Hospital celebrated the opening of a new Pharmacy Building. That same year, volunteer work sponsored by the Junior League was started. This service, performed by the girls in the yellow uniforms, has grown increasingly important to both the medical and lay management of the hospital. In 1933 the John H. Lowman Memorial Pavilion, with

a capacity of 352 beds, was completed and opened for tuberculous patients. By 1935 there were 16 buildings, with a bed capacity of 1,650 on the 27 1/2 acres of the City Hospital grounds.

In November 1935 Fred W. Ramsey was appointed Director of Health and Welfare. Although most of Mr. Ramsey's term of office has been in depression years when city funds were limited, he has taken an interest in the improvement of City Hospital and has recently completed plans for the construction of a new Emergency Receiving Building.

Centennial year, 1937, marked the opening of the beautiful Brittingham Memorial Library, now containing hundreds of reference books.

A new Incinerator Building, a one-floor brick structure, will soon be in use. The year 1941 has also seen the beginning of construction work on the \$135,000 John Colahan Memorial, the new Emergency Receiving Building.

Out-Patient care for children up to 14 years of age is a service of the East 35 Street Dispensary, the only sub-division of City Hospital that is not on the grounds at Scranton Road. This building, leased to the city by Western Reserve University, also houses City Health Station Number 2 (one of the maternal health clinics of the university) and the Well Baby Clinic.

At the East 35 Street Dispensary, which is an integral part of the City Hospital, there were 19,932 visits in 1940. The number of bed patients treated in the main hospital buildings during that year is 23,715; the record of visits to the Out-Patient Department, 162,626. These figures merely hint the great service that this institution is performing for the people of the city of Cleveland.

Key to Map
City Hospital and Grounds

1. GENERAL BUILDING: Main Information Department; Admitting Department; Roentgenology Department; General Surgery; General medicine--Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics; Anesthesia Department; Sterile Supply Room; Electric Shop, Clothes Storage Room.
2. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Officers: Superintendent, Superintendent of Nurses, Personnel, Hospital Business; Medical Social Service Department; Volunteer Service Department; Brittingham Memorial Library; Telephone Switchboard; Health Station Number 3; Staff Quarters Connected with Staff Dormitory.
3. LOWMAN MEMORIAL PAVILION: Hospital for Care of Tuberculosis Patients; Basement Auditorium for Special Functions.
4. CONTAGIOUS-NEW BUILDING: General Hospital for Contagious Diseases; Basement, Special Diet Kitchen.
5. CONTAGIOUS-OLD BUILDING: General Hospital for Contagious Diseases.
6. NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC BUILDING: Wards and Living Quarters for Men and Women Patients; Workrooms, Occupational-Therapy; Physical Therapy; Dermatology; Fever Therapy; Ward Aid School; Section of General Stores.
7. OUT-PATIENT BUILDING: Twenty-seven Medical and Surgical Departments, including Medical and

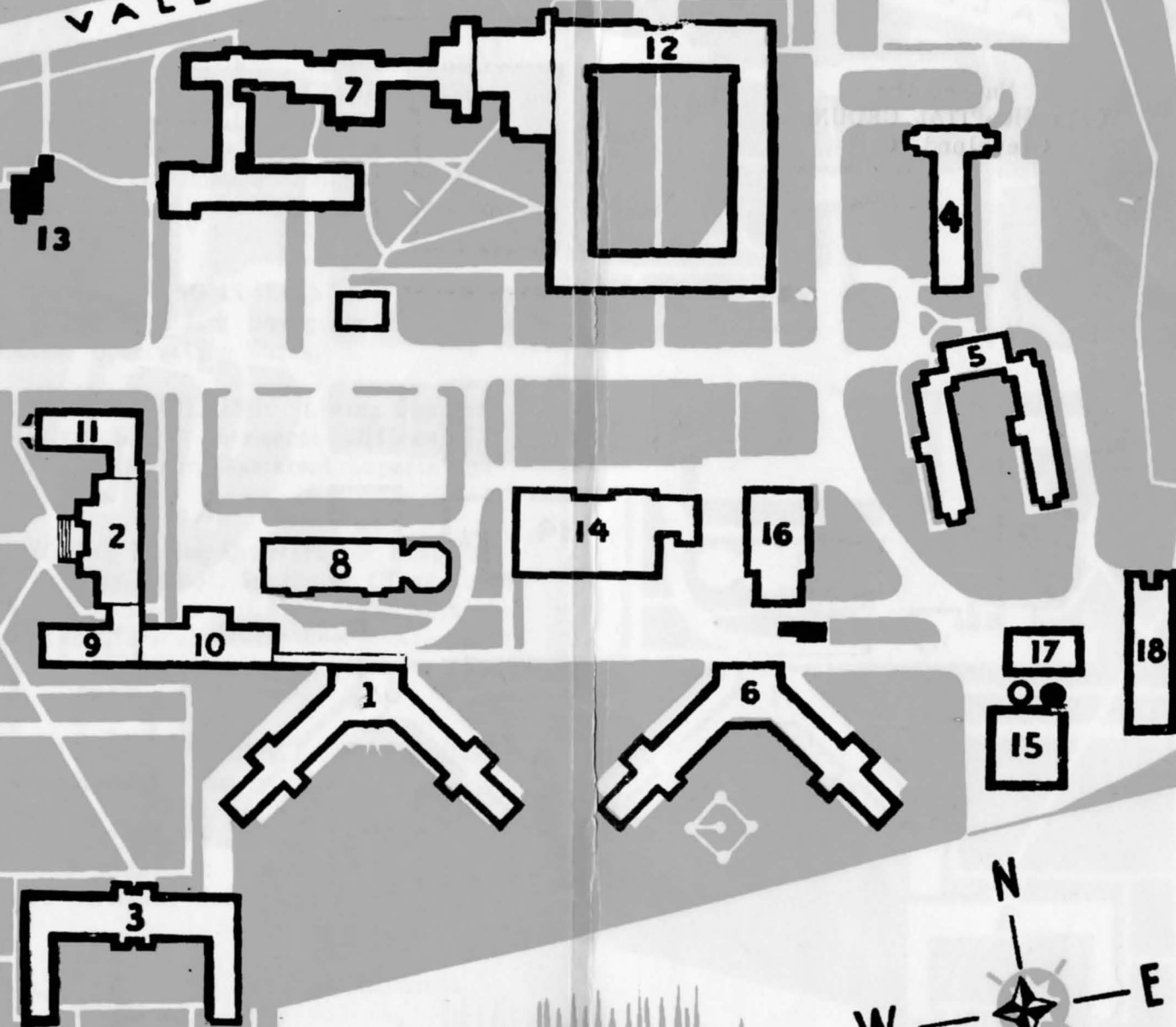
SCRANTON ROAD

VALENTINE

AVE.

W. 17

JENNINGS ROAD





Surgical Clinics; Hospital Offices, and Headquarters for Work Projects and National Youth Administrations.

8. PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY: Complete Pathology Unit, including Laboratories; Chemistry, Bacteriology, Serology; Amphitheatre; Autopsy.

9. PHARMACY: Hospital Manufacturing Center for all Pharmaceutical Preparations used in hospital and other city institutions.

10. EMERGENCY RECEIVING BUILDING: New Building in process of construction; Emergency Treatments of Accident Cases; Observation Wards.

11. RESIDENT STAFF BUILDING: Living Quarters for Hospital Medical Staff; Basement: Offices of Chief Engineer, Storekeeper, Assistant Superintendent; Recreation Room.

12. NURSES' HOME: Living Quarters for Hospital Nursing Staff; Nursing School, including Class Rooms; Library and School Laboratory; Dining Room serving Doctors, Nurses and Clerical Staff; Basement: Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, Auditorium, and Hospital Paint Shop.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE: Living Quarters for Superintendent and family.

14. EMPLOYEES' DORMITORY: Living Quarters for Hospital Employees; Basement: Main Kitchen for Patients, Employees' Kitchen, Bakery, Butcher Shop, Storeroom.

15. POWER HOUSE: Heat and Power Department.

16. LAUNDRY: Complete Plant for the Laundering of all Hospital Linens.

17. GARAGE: Storage for Hospital Truck and Ambulance.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1836 First board of health was appointed for the newly incorporated city of Cleveland. Membership in the board included the mayor, John W. Willey, and three members of the city council.
- 1837 First Cleveland City Hospital was founded on May 9 as a development of the Cleveland Township Poorhouse, situated on a part of the site of the Erie Street Cemetery. First superintendent was Joshua Mills.
- 1849 On March 13 an ordinance passed by the city council authorized the establishment of a larger City Hospital and the levying of a tax to raise funds for the purchase of land and erection of a hospital building.
- 1851 Construction of the original hospital building was started on an 80-acre tract at Valentine Avenue and Scranton Road. (The original tract is still a part of the present hospital grounds.)
- 1855 Middle House, first hospital building on the new site, was completed. The five-story brick building was valued at \$25,000. Architect for Middle House was H. White; contractors were Blair & Brooks. The institution was visited three times a week by the city physician; at all other times patients were under care of superintendent (non-medical) and staff of employees.

- 1889 Second hospital building was completed. Construction of the five-story brick building cost \$75,000. (The structure still stands and is known as the Out-Patient Building.) Patients, numbering 480, were under the part-time care of a city physician.
- 1891 First full medical staff of 28 doctors and surgeons was appointed by the Director of Charities and Correction, David Morrison, in response to appeals for adequate medical care made by local physicians. Dr. S.W. Kelley served as secretary of the new medical staff; L.F. Mellen was superintendent of the hospital.
- 1894 Pathological laboratory was opened under the direction of Dr. William Travis Howard.
- 1896 Training School for Nurses was established under the supervision of Miss Caroline Kirkpatrick, who was educated in England. She was appointed by the Director of Charities and Correction, William J. Akers.
- 1903 Cleveland became the first municipality to isolate tuberculous patients when detention hospital was converted into a tuberculosis sanitarium.
- 1909 Separation of the city infirmary from the City Hospital was effected. This had been considered desirable by city officials and the medical profession for some time; accordingly, land had been secured in Warrensville

as a site for the new infirmary. A storm on April 21, 1909, caused damage to buildings on Scranton Road land; immediate transfer of infirmary inmates to temporary quarters in Warrensville was made.

- 1909 The storm-damaged Middle House was torn down by authority of an ordinance passed by council on April 25.
- 1910 A new two-story red-brick building for contagious cases, having a bed capacity of 100 and costing \$123,070 was completed.
- 1913 In order to remove the medical staff of City Hospital from all political contingencies, Mayor Newton D. Baker arranged a contract to affiliate City Hospital with the Medical School of Western Reserve University. In return for the use of City Hospital as a training ground for medical students, Western Reserve University was to sponsor the appointment of all members of the medical staff.
- 1914 Three-story Administration Building (\$170,765), three-story Nurses' Residence (\$847,172), and a new \$36,000 laundry building were completed.
- 1921 Ten-story General Building, having a capacity of 568 beds and 50 bassinets, was opened. The cost was \$2,049,854.
- 1922 Three-story second contagious hospital was completed, increasing bed capacity for contagious cases to 200. New Neuro-Psychiatric

Hospital was opened; this building, having a capacity of 307 beds, is 10 stories high, and construction costs amounted to \$2,185,421.

1924 Out-Patient Department was instituted in the second (1889) hospital building.

1927 Completely equipped two-story brick Pathological Laboratory Building (\$261,725) was opened on June 6. Dedicatory address was made by Dr. William Travis Howard, who supervised first pathological laboratory at City Hospital.

1930 One-story Pharmacy Building (\$42,148) was opened March 1; it was equipped to manufacture pharmaceutical supplies for Cleveland City Hospital and several other municipal institutions. Volunteer work was first sponsored by the Junior League. Interior of the upper floors of the Neuro-Psychiatric Building, Nurses' Residence, and Staff Residence were completed, making additional space available for occupancy.

1933 John H. Lowman Memorial Pavilion, modern six-story brick building with a bed capacity of 352, was opened for the care of tuberculosis cases. Erection of this building cost \$821,470. (It is the receiving hospital for tuberculosis patients of Cuyahoga County.)

1937 Centennial celebration was held. Harold H. Brittingham Memorial Library, on the second floor of the Administration Building, was opened on December 8.

- 1938 Formal dedication of the Brittingham Memorial Library was held on January 25. Selected subscriptions made this library possible. (It is maintained largely through library membership fees.)
- 1940 Two floors were added to Laundry, totaling 2,640 square feet of space.
- 1941 Construction of a new \$135,000 Emergency Receiving Building, between the Administration and General Hospital Buildings, was begun by a WPA project. (A fund amounting to approximately \$80,000, established as a result of the sale of a land bequest by John Colahan, serves as the hospital's share of the building costs.)